

Missing Christmas
The Jewish Religious Leaders: Missing Love
Pastor Steve

"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!" Luke 2:29-32 NLT

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 2 Peter 1:16 NIV

Key Thought of the Day

Jesus arriving on that first Christmas over 2000 years ago was the perfect expression of God's _____.

Key Verse of the Day

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 NIV

Don't Miss This!

The Jewish people had longed and prayed for the Messiah to come, but when he did, many _____ him.

Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him." Luke 2:34 NLT

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'" Matthew 2:3-6 NLT

Grab This!

When we understand God's expression of Love in the birth of Jesus, we are compelled to _____.

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2 NLT

Expressions of Love

- The Expression of God's Love revealed in Jesus' _____.

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Philippians 2:6-8 NIV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:1-5 NIV

Don't Miss This!

Jesus' birth _____ how highly He values you and how much He loves you!

Expressions of Love

- The Expression of God's Love demonstrated in Jesus' _____.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

Since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV

Grab This!

One of the sad truths of the religious leaders missing Christmas was that while it was admirable that they had a lot of head-knowledge **about** God, they missed the opportunity to _____ interact **with** God.

Expressions of Love

- The Expression of God's Love discovered in _____.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 NIV

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10 NIV

But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. Matthew 12:14 NIV

I will tell of the Lord's unfailing love. I will praise the Lord for all he has done. I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel, which he has granted according to his mercy and love. In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them. Isaiah 63:7&9 NLT

Don't Miss This!

People who do not experience the expression of God's love in redemption will experience eternity _____ from His Presence.

Expressions of Love

- The Expression of God's Love enjoyed by _____.

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 NLT

The Bottom Line

Since Christians know the true meaning of Christmas, it is our joy to celebrate the expression of Love in Jesus' birth at Christmas, and our obligation to help others _____!

The Challenge

1. Have you experienced Jesus' love by placing your faith in Him?
2. How can you help others discover the joy found in knowing Jesus?